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NIGHT MEETINGS INTERFERE WITH PRODUCTION -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 4 Jun 53

In mid-May the Szechwan Elections Committee sent several teams to various cities to investigate the preparations being made. These teams also visited some experimental election areas to see whether or not the cadres had the correct idea about linking election with production, and to help them solve various problems in connection with the machinery for elections. The committee will continue such preliminary studies in view of the province-wide elections to be held.

A letter from one of the pilot precincts to the committee reveals that election tryouts have not been closely connected with production. On 2 May, the production cadres were brought to the hsien seat for a 3-day briefing. They were told to link electing with producing, but not given an idea of how to make the connection.

A work team visited the precinct from 7 to 14 May and held nightly meetings, until the cadres were greatly displeased and said: "With all these meetings at night, how can we ever get anything produced during the day?"

NORTHWEST PREPARES FOR ELECTIONS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 2 Jun 53

The entire Northwest Administrative Area has made its election plans and in some places the preliminary processes (census, registering of voters, etc.) have been tried out. One group of 630 cadres has already been trained, and another of 4,390 will begin work early in June. Every effort is being made to enlist popular support. Many cultural and publicity organs are aiding in this work.

KIRIN CADRES APPEAR SKEPTICAL AND INDIFFERENT -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 6 Jun 53

A training school for election cadres was held in Kirin, 2 - 11 May 1953, attended by 705 government functionaries of varying ranks. The subjects for study were the election law and the policies and procedures involved therein. This whole field of thought was new to the students most of whom reacted with skepticism and indifference. However, 305 problems were brought up for solution.

Concerning a census, there was general agreement on three points: (1) registration of population must accompany listing of voters, (2) a population register is needed for economic and cultural reconstruction at this beginning of the Five-Year Plan, and (3) the population register must be free from duplications and omissions. It was stressed that the census machinery must be streamlined and must have mobile stations so as not to interfere with production.

Some of those attending the course claimed that nomination of candidates by the Communist Party and people's groups, at the call of the local committee, is not democratic. After discussion, it was agreed that nomination from above was just a first expression of opinion for the electorate to consider and then make their decision as to the most satisfactory person, by voting after democratic discussion.

There was much discussion of how to tie in production with preparation for voting. All understood the close connection between maintaining the regime and maintaining production, and that nothing must be allowed to hinder the latter.

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SHANTUNG STARTS ELECTION WORK ALONG WITH PRODUCTION -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 3 Jun 53

In 13 hsiang in Shantung, pre-election work is going ahead alongside of production. On 5 May, with the arrival of election cadres in the various hsiang, a popular meeting was held at which production matters were fully discussed and a committee set up for rural election work. Three hsiang were chosen for experimental voting.

CHEKIANG PREPARES FOR BASIC LEVEL ELECTIONS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 4 Jun 53

In Chekiang, 137 experimental districts are taking a census or otherwise preparing for the general elections. All hsiens follow the principle of not impeding production, and are doing both kinds of work at the same time. On arriving at a village, the election work teams set up conferences and inspect and promote production through actual participation.

At Feng-hua, these teams took part in the measures taken to alleviate the effects of drought and thereby earned the people's good will and hospitality towards their political mission. At Fu-yang, they helped with farm work during the day and at night carried on and organized propaganda concerning suffrage. At Ch'ang-shan, they interested the women in production, with the result that 250 women in one hsiang did farm work side by side with the men.

Very careful preparations were made in these experimental centers so that work went on quickly without hindering other activities. On arriving at a center, work teams obtained the existing census registers, and, with the aid of local workers, checked these against family records and other current information. The population register would then be made out, followed by the list of voters, disputed cases being left for later adjudication.

After the propaganda work, the people generally enthusiastically supported the movement for election.

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